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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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February 5, 1936.

FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Total Vegetable and Vegetable Preparations Imported into the United States

The Exports of Fresh Vegetables from Cuba

Summary: Imports of vegetables of all sorts into the United States totaled 219,342 short tons in the fiscal year 1934-35, July to June. This is somewhat less than the quantity imported in 1933-34. Of the 1934-35 total, 50,414 short tons were green vegetables, 71,716 root vegetables, 32,125 dried vegetables and 65,087 short tons were canned vegetables. Imports of green vegetables were valued at \$3,045,004, root vegetables at \$1,435,266, dried vegetables at \$2,159,785 and canned vegetables at \$6,229,437, making a total value for 1934-35 of \$12,919,492, or about the same total value as 1933-34. With the exception of imports of root vegetables, particularly potatoes which showed a heavy decline, imports were generally larger than in 1933-34. The tables at the end of this report show the quantity and value of the vegetable products imported into the United States from 1931-32 to 1934-35, July to June.

Green vegetables: Imports of green vegetables in 1934-35, July to June, were substantially larger than in the preceding two seasons but fell considerably below the quantity imported in 1931-32. About 50,414 short tons were imported in 1934-35 compared with 33,834 tons in 1933-34, 42,516 tons in 1932-33 and 81,754 tons in 1931-32. The value was \$3,045,004 compared with \$2,105,849 in 1933-34, \$2,880,157 in 1932-33 and \$5,925,396 in 1931-32.

Imports of green vegetables are largely made during the period October to April and come chiefly from Cuba and Mexico. Practically all of the increase recorded in the green vegetables was accounted for by the larger fresh tomato imports. Larger imports of this vegetable were made possible by the shortage resulting from frosts in Florida which reduced the early crop. The principal green vegetable imports are tomatoes, green peas, green beans, green peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, and okra.

Root vegetables: Root vegetable imports in 1934-35 amounted to 71,716 short tons compared with 114,764 in 1933-34, 64,934 in 1932-33 and 118,333 tons in 1931-32. The items in this group are turnips and rutabagas, white potatoes, onions and garlic. There is considerable fluctuation in the imports of root vegetables from year to year largely due to the variation in the size of the potato imports. Imports of root vegetables were valued at \$1,435,266 in 1934-35, \$2,898,650 in 1933-34, \$1,021,950 in 1932-33 and \$2,016,702 in 1931-32.

Of the total of 71,716 short tons imported in 1934-35, 45,863 were turnips and rutabagas, 15,964 were white potatoes, 7,196 were onions and 2,693 tons were garlic. Practically all of the turnips and rutabagas are received from Canada. Potatoes also come largely from Canada, especially seed potatoes. Small quantities of new potatoes are received from Cuba and Bermuda during the winter months each year. Onions are received principally from Italy, Spain, Chile and Egypt. Spain, Chile, Mexico, Italy and Hungary supply most of the garlic imported.

Dried vegetables: Considerable quantities of dried vegetables are received each year. Imports amounted to 32,125 short tons in 1934-35 compared with 22,937 in 1933-34, 22,870 in 1932-33 and 23,576 tons in 1931-32. The chief products in this group are beans, chick peas, lentils and peas. Imports were valued at \$2,152,785 in 1934-35, \$1,767,169 in 1933-34, \$1,487,472 in 1932-33 and \$1,758,728 in 1931-32.

Of the 32,125 short tons of dried vegetables imported in 1934-35, 17,407 were beans, 6,060 were chick peas, 4,418 were lentils, 3,739 were whole peas, and 501 tons were other dried vegetables. Dried beans come principally from Mexico, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan and Argentina; dried peas from Hungary, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Chile, Japan, Kwantung and New Zealand; lentils from Chile and Italy; and chick peas from Mexico and Italy.

Canned vegetables: Canned and prepared vegetables form the most important group. Imports in this category amounted to 65,037 short tons in 1934-35, 60,197 in 1933-34, 57,959 in 1932-33 and 68,517 tons in 1931-32. Imports were valued at \$6,229,437 in 1934-35, \$5,628,213 in 1933-34, \$4,895,240 in 1932-33, and \$5,966,481 in 1931-32. The most important items in the group are canned tomatoes and tomato paste, most of which come from Italy. Sauces are second in importance and are received largely from Japan, Hong Kong, China, the United Kingdom and France. Other important items are pickles, pimientos and mushrooms. Pickles are mainly received from the Netherlands, Poland, Japan, Germany and Czechoslovakia; pimientos come mainly from Spain; and mushrooms from France. Of the 65,037 short tons of canned and prepared vegetables imported in 1934-35, 38,143 were tomatoes, 6,116 tomato paste, 6,055 sauces, 1,291 pickles, 793 pimientos, 388 mushrooms, and 12,301 tons of other canned and prepared vegetables. The quantity and value of the vegetables and vegetable products imported into the United States are given in detail in the following tables.

VEGETABLES: Quantity of United States imports by fiscal years,
1931-32 to 1934-35, July to June

VEGETABLE	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
<u>Green Top Vegetables</u>				
Tomatoes	122,215,234:	59,023,227:	46,254,314:	77,159,898
Peas	18,761,469:	10,933,858:	4,905,835:	4,205,180
Beans	7,504,582:	6,006,933:	4,495,577:	4,441,028
Chick Peas	2,866:	0:	3,153:	6,137
Truffles	23,432:	12,966:	10,070:	15,015
Other Green vegetables ..	1/ 15,000,000:1/	9,000,000:1/	12,000,000:1/	15,000,000
Total green vegetables :	1/163,507,583:1/	85,031,984:1/	67,668,949:1/	100,827,258
<u>Root Vegetables</u>				
Onions	37,379,301:	4,143,205:	4,552,020:	14,392,169
Garlic	7,211,622:	6,227,346:	6,528,550:	5,385,432
Potatoes, white	89,576,385:	26,407,905:	126,149,966:	31,928,581
Turnips and rutabagas ...	101,998,357:	93,034,443:	92,297,421:	91,726,476
Total cured vegetables :	236,666,665:	129,863,399:	229,527,957:	143,432,658
<u>Dried Vegetables</u>				
Beans	13,239,584:	9,396,129:	3,734,818:	34,814,250
Chick Peas	15,356,859:	14,442,302:	9,712,458:	12,120,941
Mushrooms	434,185:	329,448:	462,069:	523,269
Cowpeas (blackeye)	66,000:	0:	3,300:	405
Cowpeas (other)	0:	49,700:	0:	0
Lentils and lupines	8,276,164:	10,579,268:	11,389,677:	8,835,972
Peas, whole	8,519,467:	8,065,875:	11,352,587:	7,477,844
Peas, split	1,210,424:	2,377,652:	3,718,591:	477,992
Total dried vegetables :	47,152,533:	45,740,174:	45,373,500:	64,250,673
<u>Canned Vegetables</u>				
Pimiento	3,173,060:	2,707,522:	2,211,769:	1,585,046
Mushrooms	2,333,636:	1,703,533:	918,791:	776,948
Peas	1,073,561:	259,025:	252,543:	1,055,581
Tomato paste	12,154,231:	11,405,003:	11,363,218:	12,232,747
Tomatoes	91,571,530:	72,225,673:	75,962,613:	76,286,060
Pickled vegetables	2/ :3/	1,994,432:	2,829,294:	2,582,908
Sauces	11,527,474:	11,094,045:	11,440,373:	12,110,483
Misc. edible vegetable substances	739,951:	1,292,774:	1,190,034:	1,306,175
Other canned vegetables ..	410,189:	256,457:	214,520:	237,441
Other prepared vegetables:	1/ 14,000,000:1/	13,000,000:1/	14,000,000:1/	22,000,000
Total canned and prepared vegetables :	137,033,632:	115,918,474:	120,383,155:	130,173,389
GRAND TOTAL	584,360,563:	376,559,031:	463,453,561:	438,683,978

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from the official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

1/ Value only - quantity estimated.

2/ Included with other prepared vegetables.

3/ January to June only. See note 1/.

VEGETABLES: Value of United States imports by fiscal years,
1931-32 to 1934-35, July to June

VEGETABLES	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>Green Top Vegetables</u>				
Tomatoes	3,665,394:	1,587,580:	1,088,498:	1,880,210
Peas	973,475:	519,459:	247,104:	207,757
Beans	253,691:	181,410:	124,024:	128,946
Chick Peas	114:	0:	192:	329
Truffles	36,492:	21,521:	25,195:	36,496
Other green vegetables ..	996,230:	570,187:	620,836:	791,266
Total green vegetables:	5,925,396:	2,880,157:	2,105,849:	3,045,004
<u>Root Vegetables</u>				
Onions	647,354:	49,962:	58,113:	325,419
Garlic	255,978:	158,298:	190,120:	241,999
Potatoes, white	681,965:	388,608:	1,857,975:	369,473
Turnips and rutabagas ..	431,405:	424,391:	792,442:	548,375
Total cured vegetables:	2,016,702:	1,021,259:	2,898,650:	1,485,266
<u>Dried Vegetables</u>				
Beans	383,399:	218,737:	233,484:	787,525
Chick Peas	594,550:	480,400:	317,239:	394,633
Mushrooms	217,453:	136,613:	232,591:	287,163
Cowpeas (blackeye)	1,500:	0:	82:	12
Cowpeas (other)	0:	1,168:	0:	0
Lentils and lupines	273,056:	345,110:	396,055:	344,876
Peas, whole	266,287:	239,980:	455,360:	331,956
Peas, split	22,483:	65,464:	132,358:	13,620
Total dried vegetables:	1,758,728:	1,487,472:	1,767,169:	2,159,785
<u>Canned Vegetables</u>				
Pimiento	192,569:	155,275:	212,534:	167,156
Mushrooms	628,475:	373,896:	283,063:	235,162
Peas	61,750:	22,003:	22,816:	88,643
Tomato paste	872,573:	786,695:	835,607:	926,123
Tomatoes	2,938,568:	2,451,104:	2,921,262:	2,864,698
Pickled vegetables	1/ 524,608:	2/ 82,739:	165,717:	166,219
Sauces		350,844:	388,471:	431,345
Misc. edible vegetable substances	37,528:	39,477:	48,390:	57,887
Other canned vegetables :	23,166:	8,916:	10,599:	12,852
Other prepared vegetables	687,244:	624,291:	739,754:	1,279,352
Total canned vegetables	5,966,481:	4,895,240:	5,628,213:	6,229,437
GRAND TOTAL	15,667,307:	10,284,128:	12,399,881:	12,919,492

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from the official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

1/ Included with other prepared vegetables.

2/ January to June only, see note 1/.

Exports of Fresh Vegetables from Cuba Heavy

Summary: Exports of fresh vegetables from Cuba to the United States from October 1 to December 31 of the 1935-36 season have amounted to 10,354 short tons, according to a communication from Harold S. Tewell, American Consul at Habana. This is the heaviest amount that has been shipped in a similar period during the past four seasons and is explained by the profitable prices prevailing in the United States for Cuban vegetables states Mr. Tewell. About three-fourths of the exports have been made up of tomatoes and most of the balance of lima beans, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers and okra. A table showing the exports of fresh vegetables by months from Cuba from 1931-32 to 1935-36 is given with this report.

General: Prices received for early shipments of tomatoes in December are stated to have been very favorable to Cuban exporters. Careful grading and packing in accordance with recently promulgated regulations 1/ have contributed to the higher average prices prevailing this season. Other factors which have helped to make exports to the United States profitable are the shortage of certain early winter vegetables in the United States occasioned by the unfavorable weather in Florida, the reduced American tariff rates 2/ during certain months, and the good Cuban crops. A heavy volume of tomato shipments toward the close of the months, however, is stated to have depressed prices, according to information secured from the trade by Mr. Tewell. Prices received for other vegetables through December have also been attractive, according to the report. Increased shipments of every item but okra were recorded during December.

According to revised estimates of exporters, the early (red) Cuban potato crop now being harvested will equal and may exceed the crop of last year which amounted to 962,000 bushels. Whether exports of early potatoes to the United States will reach the volume attained in the early months of 1935 will depend largely upon prices in the American markets, according to information secured by the Consul from Cuban exporters. Potato prices in Cuba are still too high to permit of any appreciable export of potatoes to the United States.

1/ See vegetable release FS V-106

2/ See vegetable release FS V-105

CUBA: Exports of vegetables to the United States 1/

Year & Item	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
<u>1931-32</u>								
Tomatoes	---	16,290	2,387,101	4,002,993	5,134,929	2,721,407	3,160,644	17,423,364
Eggplant	---	---	50,008	149,551	491,836	539,663	549,474	1,780,532
Peppers	2,820	---	4,200	96,264	151,855	112,440	109,596	477,175
Okra	---	20,516	54,665	34,531	99,094	16,410	94,610	319,826
Lima beans ..	---	127,251	765,010	275,766	723,635	326,153	263,910	2,481,725
Cucumbers	330	8,800	649,495	1,203,185	770,200	212,425	7,585	2,852,020
Potatoes	---	---	---	448,800	919,444	397,708	278,164	2,044,116
Others	12,313	83,960	80,944	93,844	33,329	79,355	58,129	441,874
Total ...	15,463	256,817	3,991,423	6,304,934	8,324,322	4,405,561	4,522,112	27,820,632
<u>1932-33</u>								
Tomatoes	6,084	72,924	426,631	3,576,698	6,372,758	4,121,213	2,486,858	17,063,166
Eggplant	43,200	24,801	49,761	148,868	573,710	387,480	303,898	1,531,718
Peppers	---	8,160	34,245	126,534	19,984	19,560	6,680	215,163
Okra	30	16,219	43,593	86,836	12,710	55,095	70,570	285,053
Lima beans ..	3,325	69,680	526,180	782,147	244,651	776,704	507,292	2,909,979
Cucumbers	---	801	737,251	889,420	370,611	120,310	17,915	2,136,308
Potatoes	---	---	---	493,800	50,500	729,307	144,750	1,418,357
Others	24,179	30,835	38,143	60,427	46,634	56,496	55,711	312,425
Total ...	76,818	223,420	1,855,804	6,164,730	7,691,558	6,266,165	3,593,674	25,872,169
<u>1933-34</u>								
Tomatoes	---	62,659	3,655,056	8,076,476	8,942,900	7,634,690	5,578,261	33,950,042
Eggplant	---	9,763	185,640	373,818	866,370	1,330,718	910,228	3,676,537
Peppers	---	---	27,965	78,588	446,990	825,009	460,406	1,838,958
Okra	---	26,501	370,138	158,805	196,600	354,595	340,972	1,447,611
Lima beans ..	---	243,213	1,646,220	1,007,611	720,060	349,540	89,401	4,056,045
Cucumbers	---	51,678	403,037	421,828	262,450	297,628	4,992	1,441,613
Potatoes	---	---	---	84,169	18,190	---	---	102,359
Others	48,965	62,560	75,552	85,297	77,320	54,633	64,554	468,881
Total ...	48,965	456,374	6,363,608	10,286,592	11,530,880	10,846,813	7,448,814	46,982,046

Continued -

CUBA: Exports of vegetables to the United States, Cont'd

Year & Item	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
<u>1934-35</u>								
Tomatoes	---	949,691	14,548,312	13,249,526	9,964,020	9,878,372	2,251,988	50,841,909
Eggplant	---	11,480	267,537	717,706	1,222,842	2,078,545	1,011,585	5,309,695
Peppers	---	204	145,633	691,982	1,246,107	1,829,994	729,103	4,643,023
Okra	2,030	70,610	229,784	317,294	165,476	318,862	245,202	1,349,258
Lima beans ..	---	277,142	1,243,710	491,410	958,470	1,026,217	---	3,996,949
Cucumbers	---	7,110	271,930	773,430	541,359	259,113	18,219	1,871,161
Potatoes	---	---	---	396,633	212,573	28,431	1,651,775	2,289,412
Others	88,276	57,314	87,933	94,563	67,883	135,464	82,531	613,964
Total	90,306	1,373,551	16,794,839	16,732,544	14,378,730	15,554,998	5,990,403	76,915,371
<u>1935-36</u>								
Tomatoes	---	1,004,854	14,475,946					
Eggplant	551	35,013	465,711					
Peppers	---	9,689	232,152					
Okra	7,471	143,332	179,176					
Lima beans ..	132	1,007,017	2,298,522					
Cucumbers	---	37,765	541,726					
Potatoes	---	---	151,974					
Others	36,431	47,968	31,690					
Total	44,585	2,285,638	18,376,897					

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from information supplied by the American Consulate at Habana which was secured from copies of Ship's Outward Manifests filed with that office.

1/ Gross weight. Net weights may be determined by deducting the following from gross weights: tomatoes, 12¹/₂%; eggplant, 10%; peppers, 12¹/₂%; okra, 8¹/₂%; lima beans, 8¹/₂%; and cucumbers 10%.

1. The first part of the report is a general statement of the purpose and scope of the study.

2. The second part is a description of the methods used in the study.

3. The third part is a description of the results of the study.

4. The fourth part is a discussion of the results.

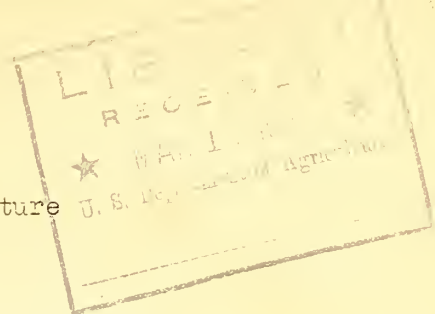
5. The fifth part is a conclusion.

6. The sixth part is a list of references.

7. The seventh part is a list of figures.

8. The eighth part is a list of tables.

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Foreign Agricultural Service
Washington, D. C.



FS
V-109

March 10, 1936.

FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

The Winter Vegetable Situation in the West Coast of Mexico and Cuba

Summary: Exports of winter vegetables from Cuba to the United States during the three month period, November 1 to January 31, have been considerably larger than the shipments in the same period of the 1934-35 season whereas exports from the West Coast of Mexico have fallen slightly below those of last season to the same date, according to reports received in the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture from American Consuls in those countries. The total movement from Cuba for the period under survey has been around 22,480 short tons against 17,450 short tons in the same period of the 1934-35 season. Shipments of fresh vegetables from the West Coast of Mexico through the port of Nogales from November 1 to January 31 have totaled about 5,382 short tons compared with 5,867 short tons to the same date in 1934-35. Tomatoes are the principal vegetable exported from both countries. Other important vegetable exports from Cuba are lima beans, eggplant, green peppers, cucumbers and okra. In addition to tomatoes, the chief exports from the West Coast of Mexico are green peas and green peppers.

Hot winds blew over the Cuban tomato fields during a long period in January and adversely affected the quality of the early tomatoes remaining for export from Cuba. Probably as much as 60 percent of the early crop remaining on the vines was injured and some damage was done to the late crop. Weather conditions in the vegetable sections of the West Coast of Mexico during January have been quite satisfactory for the production of crops.

MEXICO

Exports: Total exports of winter vegetables from the West Coast of Mexico through the port of Nogales had amounted to 5,382 short tons from the start of the season November 1 through January 31, compared with 5,867 short tons in the same period of the 1934-35 season, according to Thomas M. Powell, American Vice Consul at Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Practically all of the movement of West Coast vegetables is through Nogales. Although total shipments have fallen short of the exports made to the same date last season, they are considerably larger than the 3,746 short tons exported in the same period in 1933-34. The decline in the total exports of vegetables from the West Coast of Mexico is chiefly due to the reduction in the exports of green peas.

Exports of tomatoes from the West Coast of Mexico amounted to 3,455 short tons in the three month period, November 1 to January 31, 1935-36, compared with 3,237 short tons in the same period of 1934-35. Around 1,110 short tons of peas had gone forward by January 31 compared with 1,991 short tons to the same date last season. Exports of green peppers amounted to 628 short tons compared with 317 in the same period of the 1934-35 season. The only other item of importance was 117 short tons of green beans compared with 235 short tons in the same period last season. Additional information is given in the following tables.

MEXICO: Exports of green vegetables through the port of Nogales from November 1 to January 31

Vegetables	1934-35		1935-36	
	Pounds	Cars	Pounds	Cars
Tomatoes	6,473,979:	305	6,910,390:	328
Green peas	3,981,710:	217	2,220,013:	119
Green peppers	635,011:	12	1,375,174:	53
Green beans	469,027:	12	233,558:	5
Eggplant	138,545:	4	18,775:	---
Lima Beans	27,543: (353: (
Cucumbers	10,999: (6,186: (
Squash	---	43	91: (24
Okra	---	(162: (
Total	11,734,814:	593	10,764,702:	529

Compiled from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine reports at Nogales. These figures include most of the West Coast of Mexico vegetable exports.

Crops in Sonora: Although seasonal shipments of winter vegetables to the United States from the West Coast of Mexico have fallen considerably below those of the previous season, exports of these commodities maintained a steady level during the last two weeks of the month of January, according to Vice Consul Powell. Most of the tomato shipments so far have originated in southern Sonora. However, the tomato crop of the State of Sinaloa is now ready for export to the United States and shipments of this commodity are expected to increase steadily from the latter state while those from southern Sonora will decline. Probably 1,000 cars of tomatoes will be available for export from the State of Sinaloa. The early shipments of tomatoes from Sinaloa are expected to show excellent quality as the crown crop produces the largest tomatoes.

Several pepper fields were damaged by a windstorm which swept over a small section of northern Sinaloa in the last two weeks of January. No serious damage was done. Roughly 70 cars of peppers were available for shipment at the end of January, providing the weather remained favorable.

Although exports of green peas held at a fairly steady volume during the last two weeks of January, a sharp decline in shipments is expected in the near future since the crops were beginning to wither and die by the end of January. It was generally reported that green pea growers in Sonora suffered financial losses this season.

Crops in Sinaloa: Approximately 11,600 acres of winter vegetables were planted in the State of Sinaloa this season compared with 10,300 last season, according to Vice Consul, R. C. Beverstock at Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. Heavy losses to crops during October from extreme heat are reported to have been about equalized by later plantings, which had the net result of retarding production and exportation from the affected regions. Losses of acreage during December were about offset by new plantings. Little or no damage from frosts occurred. It is reported that few "genuine" string beans have been planted. Under the heading of string beans have been included those beans known as "frijol rosa" and "azufrado". Shipments made to date are reported to have been mostly of the latter two types. In the miscellaneous acreage are included small plantings of eggplant and cucumbers as well as "genuine" string beans.

Weather conditions are reported to have been fairly favorable recently, making up to some extent for the abnormal conditions earlier in the season. Although some fear was earlier expressed of damage from frosts, no damage has as yet been reported. The general condition of tomato plantings is said to be about 70 percent of normal. Green pepper plantings suffered heavily during December because of rains, but considerable production is exported nevertheless.

Peak shipments from Sinaloa are expected to occur during March and April. Tomatoes started to move during the last half of January, but the heavy movement is expected during March. The peak for green peppers is expected during late February and early March. The movement of green peas started late in January and amounted to about 10 cars during the month. Future movement of green peas will depend upon market conditions in the United States most of the crop having been planted for seed. The winter vegetable crop in Sinaloa is expected to be around 1,000 - 1,300 cars of tomatoes, 100 - 150 cars of green peppers, 100 cars of green peas, and 20 to 30 cars of mixed vegetables, including some "regular" string beans, eggplant and cucumbers. Total shipments from Sinaloa will be about the same or slightly smaller than last season.

CUBA

Exports: The volume of exports of vegetables from Cuba to the United States was heavy during January, according to Consul Harold S. Towell at Habana. With the exception of potatoes and lima beans, all products were shipped in larger quantities than in the previous month. The total movement of vegetables in January was 12,149 short tons compared with 8,336 short tons last January. Market conditions in January, however, are stated to have not been as favorable as in the previous month or as in January, 1935. Storms and exceedingly cold weather were counted among the adverse factors affecting sales of Cuban vegetables in the United States, while a protracted period of hot winds, which hit the tomato growing regions in Cuba, tended to injure the quality of tomatoes ready for harvest. Probably two-thirds of the early crop still on the vines was injured, and to a certain degree, some of the late crop has suffered.

Exports of vegetables to the United States in November, December and January amounted to 22,480 short tons compared with 17,450 short tons in the same period in 1934-35. Exports of tomatoes during this period have amounted to 13,557 short tons compared with 14,374 short tons in the same months of 1934-35; exports of eggplant totaled 1,212 short tons against 498 last season; green peppers, 847 short tons compared with 419; okra, 366 short tons against 309; lima beans 2,420 short tons as contrasted with 1,006; potatoes, 149 short tons against 198; cucumbers, 834 short tons compared with 526; and other vegetables 96 short tons as compared with 120 short tons in the same three months in 1934-35.

The quantity of tomatoes available for export from Cuba during February, the last month in which seasonal preferential rates of duty under the Cuban-American Agreement are applicable, apparently will be not less than in February, 1935, when 4,982 short tons were shipped, according to Consul Towell. Sales of Cuban eggplant in American markets in January are stated to have been favored by a reduction in quantities available from other sources, and prices generally were reported as somewhat higher than in January, 1935.

Good prices for peppers also contributed to increased shipments during the month. A slow demand for lima beans in the northern markets early in January served to diminish exports of that vegetable, but prices during the last half of the month improved as supplies were regulated to market requirements, according to the report. On the other hand, a large increase in cucumber shipments from Cuba to the United States served to depress markets in that country during the latter part of January. Exports from Cuba so far this season are given in the table on page 5.

CUBA: Exports of green vegetables from November 1 to January 31

Vegetables	1934-35	1935-36
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Tomatoes	28,747,529	33,113,219
Eggplant	996,723	2,424,297
Peppers	837,819	1,693,841
Okra	617,688	731,504
Lima beans	2,012,262	4,840,393
Potatoes	396,633	298,937
Cucumbers	1,052,470	1,667,100
Others	239,810	191,455
Total	34,900,934	44,960,746

Compiled from ships manifests by the National Bureau of Statistics (unofficial) Habana. Figures represent gross weights.

Export regulations: The Cuban Department of Agriculture by Decree-Law No. 546 of December 31, 1935, is authorized "to regulate the exportation of all products of the soil", according to Consul W. N. Walmsley, Jr. at Habana. Specifically this Decree-Law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the sowing, harvesting, selection, classification, packing, and marking of products of the soil, and to issue certificates regarding size, quality, and sanitary condition. The Secretary is also empowered to regulate transportation, refrigeration, and other operations affecting the export trade in fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products. Substantial penalties may be imposed to put teeth into any regulations which may eventually be adopted. About 90 percent of the exports from Cuba are agricultural products.

This legislation, it is understood, was adopted primarily to permit the Secretary of Agriculture to lay down regulations governing the export trade with the United States of Cuban fruits and vegetables. During the summer of 1935 the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Exporters, which includes practically every important grower and trader engaged in the Cuban fruit and vegetable business, presented a project of regulations covering various fruits and vegetables, which were based to a large extent upon official standards of the United States Department of Agriculture, to the Cuban Agriculture Department for incorporation into a decree. The legislation in question will now make it possible for the Cuban Department of Agriculture to formulate export standards such as those proposed by the Association. The proposed grading and packing regulations were given in our release FS-V 106, dated December 30.

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March 25, 1936.

FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Shipments of Cuban Vegetables Declining

Summary: Exports of winter vegetables from Cuba to the United States in February totaled 18,621,455 pounds, or a decline of 5,700,000 pounds from the record shipments of January, according to a communication from Harold S. Towell, American Consul at Habana. The volume will probably decline from now on to the end of the season in April. Heavy rains during the month adversely affected all winter vegetable crops. Substantial shipments of tomatoes are expected to be made during March and April unless further crop damage occurs.

Movement to date: Up to the end of February there had been a 30 percent increase in vegetable exports from Cuba as compared with the movement during the same period last season (November-February). The total movement during this period has totaled 63,582,191 pounds against 49,279,664 in the same months last season. All items have shown an increase. Exports of tomatoes amounted to 44,393,633 pounds against 38,711,549 last season. Shipments of lima beans increased to 6,003,125 compared with 2,970,732 in the corresponding period in 1934-35. Other items of importance were eggplant, green peppers, cucumbers, okra and potatoes. Details of the trade are given in the table below.

CUBA: Exports of winter vegetables to the United States

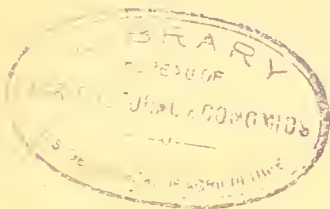
Item	1934-35	1935-36
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Tomatoes	38,711,549	44,393,633
Lima beans	2,970,732	6,003,125
Eggplant	2,219,565	4,942,313
Green peppers	2,083,926	3,863,117
Cucumbers	1,593,829	2,237,309
Okra	783,164	1,025,373
Potatoes	609,206	827,340
Others	307,693	289,981
Total	49,279,664	63,582,191

Compiled by Consul Harold S. Towell at Habana.

Exports during February were made up largely of tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and lima beans. The total movement reached 18,621,455 pounds compared with 14,378,730 pounds in February, 1935.

Market situation: During the first half of February, shipments of tomatoes of export quality from the first crop were completed; shipments during the remainder of the month consisted of tomatoes from the second crop. On the whole, prices received for tomato shipments in February were better than the average prevailing prices in the previous month, although the poor quality of some shipments following the excessive rain storms about the middle of February tended to lower the average price level, according to Consul Towell. The prices received for other vegetables sent to American markets in February, with the exception of eggplant, also are stated to have been as high or higher than those received for January shipments.

Heavy rains during the month of February injured all crops, damage to tomatoes being estimated at about 40 percent of the crop remaining unharvested. Although the seasonal preferential rates of duty in the United States on Cuban tomatoes, potatoes, and cucumbers are not applicable after the last day of February, substantial shipments of tomatoes will be made to American markets in March and April unless further crop damage occurs, or prices decline abruptly. Exports of tomatoes during March, 1935, totaled 9,878,372 pounds and all other vegetables 5,676,626 pounds. The most important in the latter group were eggplant, peppers and lima beans. While the volume of cucumber exports henceforth will be small, the price of potatoes in Cuba and the United States is stated to be the governing factor in furthering exports of that vegetable.



United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

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November 30, 1936

FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Vegetable Exports from Cuba to the United States expected
to show increase in 1936-37

As the Cuban winter vegetable crop approaches maturity a survey indicates that exports to the United States of the leading items during the shipping season, between November 1, 1936, and April 30, 1937, will total approximately 2,215,000 packages, representing an increase of about 20 percent over record exports during the last shipping season, according to a report from Consul Harold S. Towell at Habana. The month of October passed without severe storms that at times prevail during that period and the growing season so far has been characterized by generally favorable conditions. However, in certain sections excessive rainfall is reported to have caused some damage to maturing crops and in others lack of moisture has retarded growth. Unfavorable moisture conditions and dry winds are two damaging factors that still must be considered during the remainder of the growing season.

Tomatoes: Tomatoes are the most important commercial winter vegetable crop, accounting for approximately 65 percent of the volume of all vegetable exports from Cuba to the United States last winter and spring. This year tomato plants have not only been set out in far greater quantities than in former years in the Provinces of Habana and Pinar del Rio, but the growing of tomatoes for export has been extended to the province of Santa Clara.

The latter province heretofore has produced tomatoes suitable chiefly for the domestic market, but shippers and growers this year have combined to spread the crop area of exportable tomatoes, in the expectation that crop damage from storms and moisture conditions will not prevail in each of the provinces in question.

The first shipment of tomatoes to the United States from this year's crop consisted of 130 lugs during the first week in November. While a substantial quantity of tomatoes is stated to have matured sufficiently to harvest at this time, for the most part the earliest tomatoes are stated to have been so badly damaged by heavy rains that they cannot withstand shipping and are being sold locally or destroyed. In districts where rainfall has been less than required, tomatoes will not be ready for harvesting for two weeks or more. As a result it is not now anticipated that shipments for export will attain much volume until after November 20. Exports during 1936-37 (November 1 to April 30) still are estimated at 1,500,000 to 1,700,000 lugs of 30 to 32 pounds net weight, as compared with 1,317,991 lugs during the last corresponding season.

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